

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6485

BILL NUMBER: HB 1326

DATE PREPARED: Dec 3, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Elective Study of Bible in Public Schools.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chris Baker

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9851

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (A) This bill provides that a school corporation may include in its curriculum as an elective a study of world literature, including the Bible and other similar great works of literature.

(B) The bill requires the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Board to jointly develop and report to the Legislative Council by January 1, 2003, a plan to implement the "academic study of religion in secondary schools".

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (A) Currently, Biblical Literature is offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. In addition, World Literature is also offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the same curriculum area.

Since the Department of Education already provides curriculum assistance for courses contained within English/Language Arts (including World and Biblical Literature), there would be no additional cost to the State regarding this portion of the bill.

(B) The Department of Education and the Professional Standards Board would likely experience a minimal increase in administrative costs associated with the provisions of this bill. These figures are currently indeterminable and dependent upon implementation.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (A) This bill would allow school corporations to offer elective high school instruction regarding World Literature including the Bible. Currently, school corporations are already allowed to offer World and Biblical Literature electives via the curriculum area of Language/Arts. It is not

likely that the provisions of this bill would result in additional administrative time or cost to school corporations.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education, Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Dr. Mary Andis, Department of Education, (317) 232-9138.